



U.S. Legislators on \$1 Meal Diet to Boost Food Aid

By Charles Abbott

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WASHINGTON —For lunch on Tuesday, Janice Schakowsky spread flakes of tuna on two slices of white

"I couldn't afford the mayo," said Schakowsky, so she did not make tuna salad. Schakowsky, McGovern

Their spell on "the Food Stamp Challenge" will end on Monday, just before the House Agriculture Comm

Food stamp benefits are roughly \$1 a meal or \$3 a day. With that budget, the U.S. representatives said,

"It's amazing how hard it is to buy fruits and vegetables," said Tim Ryan, an Ohio Democrat, who also en

About 26 million Americans receive food stamps, the major U.S. anti-hunger program that is aimed at he

"The point of this is, a lot of people are struggling," said McGovern, a Massachusetts Democrat. "The far

McGovern and Emerson, a Missouri Republican, are among sponsors of a House bill to increase funding

Ellen Vollenger of the anti-hunger group Food Research and Action Center said the Food Stamp Challen

In January, the Bush administration proposed changes that would provide food stamps to about 98,000

In a separate interview, the Republican leader on the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Bob Goodlatte